

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06701 230858Z

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, IS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF KNESSET DELEGATION TO U.S.

REF: STATE 248676

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF VIEWS OF ISRAELI KNESSET DELEGATION ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

2. SPEAKER ISRAEL YESHAYAHU. GIVEN HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF THE KNESSET, YESHAYAHU GENERALLY DOES NOT SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING ISSUES. HOWEVER, HE IS WELL-KNOWN AS A LABOR PARTY MODERATE WHO BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE MAJOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR PEACE AGREEMENTS. AS A MEMBER OF MAPAI HE WAS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH FORMER FINANCE MINISTER SAPIR WHO, IN THE MEIR GOVERNMENT, HAD REPRESENTED THE MOST MODERATE POSITIONS.

3. MENAHEM BEGIN. AS HEAD OF THE OPPOSITION LIKUD AND LEADER OF ITS MOST RIGHT-WING COMPONENT--THE HERUT PARTY--BEGIN REPRESENTS THE MOST HARDLINE POSITION ON NEGOTIATING ISSUES IN THE ISRAELI POLITICAL SPECTRUM. HE HAS OPPOSED ALL U.S. NEGOTIATING INITIATIVES AND IMPOSED COALITION DISCIPLINE ON LIKUD KNESSET DELEGATION TO VOTE AS A BLOC AGAINST DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES AGREEMENTS AND THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. AN OPPONENT OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, BEGIN BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD DEMAND DIRECT ARAB-ISRAELI

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06701 230858Z

NEGOTIATIONS FOR FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENTS. HERUT'S PUBLIC

FORMULATION IS THAT FOR FINAL PEACE AGREEMENTS IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE CERTAIN TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, IN SINAI AND GOLAN, BUT NO IN THE WEST BANK. I HAS NEVER SPELLED OUT WHAT THESE CONCESSIONS WOULD BE, BUT THEY WOULD PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE VERY MINIMAL.

4. DR. ARI ANKORION. ANKORION HAS SUPPORTED GOI ON ALL FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS. AS MEMBER OF MAINSTREAM MAPAI, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO SO IN FUTURE. MOREOVER, AS FORMER PRESIDENT (ANDPRESENTLY VICE-PRESIDENT) OF ISRAEL AMERICAN SOCIETY, HE REGARDS HIMSELF AS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN PRESERVATION OF CLOSE U.S.- ISRAYFALATIONSHIP.

5. YITZHAK BEN-AHARON. BEN-AHARON IS ONE OF THE MOST DOVISH MEMBERS OF THE LABOR PARTY, WITH VIEWS VERY CLOSE TO THOSE OF THE LEFT-WING MAPAM. HE HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETURN CERTAIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES EVEN BEFORE FINAL PEACE AGREEMENTS ARE CONCLUDED. FOR FINAL PEACE HE WOULD RETURN ALMOST ALL THE TERRITORIES, AND HE BELIEVES THAT GOI SHOULD COME OUT WITH PROPOSAL FOR OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT. IN ABSENCE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA, HOWEVER, HE RECENTLY HAS SUPPORTED RESOLUTIONS OF AHDUT AVODAH KIBBUTZ FEDERATION OPPOSING REMOVAL OF ITS GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENTS IN CONTEXT OF INTERIM AGREEMENT (TEL AVIV 6505).

6. MRS. HAIKA GROSSMAN. MRS. GROSSMAN ADVOCATES STANDARD MAPAM POSITIONS ON NEGOTIATIONS, URGING GOI TO SHOW MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES. SHE SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF AN ISRAELI INITIATIVE FOR AN OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT, AND BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETURN ALMOST ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES FOR FINAL PEACE.

7. JOSEF TAMIR. WITHIN THE LIKUD, TAMIR IS A MODERATE. WHILE HE HAS VOTED IN KNESSET AGAINST POSTWAR AGREEMENTS, IN PRIVATE HE HAS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THESE AGREEMENTS CONTAIN CERTAIN ELEMENTS BENEFICIAL TO ISRAEL. HE BELIEVES THAT LIKUD HAS MADE SERIOUS MISTAKE BY TAKING EXCLUSIVELY NEGATIVE POSITION ON NEGOTIATING QUESTIONS AND FAILING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 06701 230858Z

TO PRESENT ISRAELI PUBLIC WITH PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE. HE TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN OTHER MEMBERS OF LIBERAL PARTY BELIEVES THAT IN PRINCIPLE ISRAEL SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH ARAB STATES, A VIEW WHICH CONFLICTS WITH LIKUD'S OFFICIAL POSITION.

8. ZERAH WARHAFTIG. WARHAFTIG, ONE OF THE MODERATES IN THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, HAS VOTED IN FAVOR OF

POSTWAR AGREEMENTS. IN SEPTEMBER 1974, HE TOLD NRP SYMPOSIUM THAT PARTY MUST RECONSIDER ITS VIEWS ON WEST BANK IF OPPORTUNITY FOR FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT ARISES. HE BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE UNSPECIFIED CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK FOR FINAL PEACE. WHILE HE HAS NOT EXPRESSED HIMSELF PUBLICLY ON QUESTION OF INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA, WE BELIEVE HE WOULD CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL ON ITS MERITS (SECURITY/MILITARY RATHER THAN RELIGIOUS), AND PROBABLY WOULD SUPPORT GOI.

9. BIO DATA ON GROSSMAN AND ACCOMPANYING SPOUSES IS BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL. PHOTOS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 23. TOON

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